Manchester Says Dump-LBJ

Move Was Weighed

NEW YORK (AP)—Immediately after President John F. Kennedy's assassination, one of his aides is quoted as wondering if Lyndon B. Johnson could be dumped as Democratic candidate in 1964.

William Manchester, in the fourth and final installment of Look Magazine's serialization of his book, "The Death of a President," also says President Kennedy had selected Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara as his next secretary of state, intending to replace Dean Rusk.

Regarding the 1964 nomination, Manchester writes of Kennedy's White House aide, Arthur Schlesinger Jr.:

"He conferred with Chairman John Bailey, asking him whether it would be possible to deny the new President the nomination."

MANCHESTER says Bailey, Democratic national chairman, said it might be technically feasible, but would cost the Democrats the election.

At the first cabinet meeting after the assassination, Manchester said Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy inadvertently arrived late, and that Johnson took this as an intentional snub. The author adds:

"Clearly, Johnson regarded the late President's brother as a formidable obstacle."

At Mrs. John F. Kennedy's suite in Bethesda Naval Hospital the night of the assassination, Manchester says Secretary McNamara was asked by Charles Bartlett, a newspaper columnist and friend of President Kennedy, whether he knew he was supposed to be secretary of state in Kennedy's second term.

CHARLIE had heard it from the President," Manchester went on. "The secretary of defense nodded slowly. I 'don't know what I could have done about policy, but I could have helped with the Administration,' he said."

The Look serialization concludes with a hitherto unpublished letter from Mrs. Kennedy to the then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Written 10 days after the assassination, it says in part:

"You and he were adversaries, but you were allied in a determniation that the world should not be blown up. You respected each other and could deal with each other. I know that President Johnson will make every effort to establish the same relationship with you . . . and he will need your help."

MANCHESTER writes that it was Nicholas de B. Katzenbach, acting as attorney general during Robert Kennedy's bereavement, who proposed an investigation of the assassination by the commission that Chief Justice Earl Warren later headed.

Katzenbach, Manchester says, learned that Johnson tentatively had decided upon a Texas commission, which would exclude all non-Texans. To head off this plan, Katzenbach was said to have gone to Abe Fortas, a Washington attorney close to Johnson.

"He bluntly labeled Johnson's idea a ghastly mistake," the author says.

Manchester writes that Johnson never was in any hurry to evict Mrs. Kennedy from her White House quarters.

AFTER his election as President in 1964, Manchester said Johnson seemed to forget that he had asked President Kennedy's aides to stay on in his administration. The author said "the very mention of their names would annoy him" and that within a year he was so resentful of the Kennedy aura "that any White House employe who wore a PT-109 tie clip "would run the risk of incurring the presidential wrath."

There is a passage describing White House nurse Maude Shaw's desperate but vain appeal that it not fall to her lot to inform Caroline and John Kennedy of their father's death.

"PLEASE no," the nurse is quoted, "Let this cup pass from me. . . . Please, please, "can't someone else do it?"

There is Mrs. Kennedy's successful fight to have the presidential coffin sealed, even though Manchester says the President's face was not damaged by the assassin's bullets.

"They have to remember Jack alive," Mrs. Kennedy is quoted. Robert Kennedy sided with her.

Manchester describes Mrs. Kennedy and Caroline approaching the sealed casket after funeral services to say a final goodby, with the child instructed to "kiss him good-bye, and tell daddy how much we love him and how much we'll always miss him."